AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION:

Please amend the specification as follows:

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 6-18 with the following paragraph:

The inventors found that the conditioned media of the OP9 cells and neurospheres (which are hereinafter called OP9CM and NSF-CM, respectively) have activity that maintains survival and proliferation of neural stem cells at low densities. Accordingly, an active OP9CM was compared (N=4) with an inactive OP9CM using a quantitative mass spectrometer (Protein chip:CIPHERGEN), and a list of molecular weights of the molecules exhibiting difference in expression between the conditioned media was made. One molecule with the highest reproducibility was chosen from the list, and fragmentary amino acid sequences were determined using a double-focusing mass spectrometer (Q star: ABI) . It was found that the molecule was ~~Galectin~~Galectin-1.

Please replace the paragraph at page 3, lines 19-30 with the following paragraph:

Galectin-1 is a lectin that binds to beta-galactoside, known to be present in the cytoplasm as well as outside the cells. Expression of ~~Galectin~~Galectin-1 in OP9CM and NSF-CM was examined by Western blotting and ~~Galectin~~Galectin-1 was certainly detected in these conditioned media. Then, the activity of Galectin-1 was inhibited by forced expression of the antisense cDNA of Galectin-1 and neural stem cell proliferation was found to be markedly suppressed. Further, thiodigalactoside (10 mM), which can inhibit Galectin-1 activity by competing with sugar, was added to NSF-CM and the

activity that maintains survival and proliferation of neural stem cells at low densities was inhibited.

Please replace the paragraph at page 15, line 23 to page 16, line 4 with the following paragraph:

The full-length of the mouse Galectin-1 cDNA was cloned (GAL) into the retroviral expression vector pMY-IRES-EGFP. The unrecombinant vector (RV) and the recombinant vector with Galectin-1 cDNA inserted in the opposite orientation (AS) were used as the negative controls for the following experiments. These three retroviral vectors and VSV-G expression plasmid were each transfected into the retrovirus-producing cell line 293gp. After incubation for 48 hours, each of the conditioned media was recovered as a retrovirus-containing medium. During incubation of neurospheres according to Example 1, the each of the three retrovirus-containing media were ~~each~~ added to the culture medium and only the cells in ~~cell to~~ which infection was established were sorted with the cell sorter. A conditioned medium was used without dilution when cells were sorted. This conditioned medium was prepared by removing cell components through the 0.45 μm filter after 72-hour incubation under the culture condition for the formation of neurospheres.